

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: November 27, 2006

TO: North Bay Project Area Committee

FROM: James Davies, Community Development Coordinator

SUBJECT: Morena Boulevard Traffic Signal

Engineering and Capital Projects (E&CP) along with Council District Six (CD6) have requested \$24,000 in funds from North Bay Redevelopment Project Area for a traffic signal on Morena Boulevard at Linda Vista Road. The project is currently on a backlog list of projects for the E&CP Department. Currently the total cost for all projects on the backlog list is \$7.4 million. The department receives a total of \$750,000 each fiscal year for traffic improvements. The request for the traffic signal on Morena Blvd. would not likely be funded for many years without ~~but~~ redevelopment funds.

Comment: delete

Background

The Linda Vista Community Planning Committee, recognizing the need for increased safety on Morena Boulevard near Linda Vista Road conducted a traffic count on Monday May 15, 2006. John J. McAllister P.E., Registered Traffic Engineer 109 submitted a summary of the count and a recommendation on behalf of the Linda Vista Community Planning Committee.

The traffic count addressed the area just North of the intersection of Morena Boulevard and Linda Vista road southbound to the ramp for Interstate 5. Prior to a fatal accident on Morena Boulevard, southbound Morena Boulevard was two lanes throughout the area. After the fatality, Morena Boulevard was reduced to one lane prior to the intersection with Linda Vista Road. Therefore southbound Morena Blvd. traffic must merge from two lanes to one prior to the intersection, then must merge again with Linda Vista Rd traffic. Additionally, cars on southbound Morena Blvd. from Linda Vista Rd traffic must merge to the right to take the I-5 on-ramp. The traffic analysis found that the majority of traffic from Linda Vista Rd. going southbound on Morena Blvd. will continue onto I-5 necessitating the right-lane merge. According to the traffic engineer, merging to the right generates more accidents than merging to the left.

In order to create a safer traffic pattern in the area, the recommendation from the Linda Vista Community Planning Committee (LVCPC) is to place a traffic signal on southbound Morena Blvd. at the intersection with southbound Linda Vista Rd. The signal will not only separate the traffic on Morena Blvd. and Linda Vista Rd., but it will also allow traffic on both Morena Boulevard and Linda Vista Rd. to continue as two lanes throughout the intersection and beyond. The separation of the traffic will eliminate the dangerous right-lane merge on Morena Blvd.

The planning committee's to their recommendation CD6 staff. CD6 staff placed a request for the traffic signal to E&CP in June 2006. E&CP conducted an analysis and additional studies to determine if a traffic signal was needed. On September 12, 2006, Duncan Hughes, E&CP Senior Traffic Engineer concluded that a traffic signal on southbound Morena Blvd. at Linda Vista Rd was needed. Thus, the project was placed on a priority list to compete with other projects in similar locations.

Redevelopment Agency staff have concluded that the use of redevelopment funds for a traffic signal is consistent with the North Bay Redevelopment Plan, would benefit the project area, and that no other funds are available for this improvement. Agency staff request the PAC take an action regarding the use of redevelopment funds for the Morena Traffic Signal. The item has been placed on the December 6, 2006 PAC Agenda.

James Davies

JD/mg